

one of labourers and three of leather and shoe workers. Up to 1902 these several bodies were represented at the annual conventions of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. In that year, in an effort to eliminate a duplication of unions and bring the independent bodies under the banner of the international organizations, the Trades Congress denied them further representation. The Knights of Labour assemblies gradually disappeared, but the independent unions continued to exist. Up to the time of the expulsion by the Trades Congress of those bodies which were outside the ranks of the international organizations, there was only one Catholic union, that composed of shoe workers in the city of Quebec, which had accepted the social doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church and admitted a chaplain (a member of the clergy), this course being adopted in 1901 following the adjustment of a dispute in the shoe industry in that city by the archbishop of the diocese. Some years later, a number of other national unions were formed in the province of Quebec, all of which accepted for their guidance the declarations of Pope Leo XIII, who on May 15, 1891, issued an encyclical on "The Condition of the Working Classes", the provisions of which were subsequently proclaimed by Pope Pius X as fundamental rules for workmen's associations. In 1918, a conference of national unions was held in Quebec city, followed by other meetings in Three Rivers in 1919 and Chicoutimi in 1920; the delegates at the latter conference, numbering 225 from 120 unions, decided to establish a permanent central body to co-ordinate the work of the scattered units. Accordingly, at the 1921 conference held in Hull, at which approximately 200 delegates representing 89 unions were present, a constitution to govern the new body was approved. The name selected was "Federation of Catholic Workers of Canada" and permanent officers were elected, the constitution and by-laws becoming effective on Jan. 1, 1922. From information at hand, there are 121 National Catholic unions with a combined membership of 25,151.

One Big Union.—Delegates from Western Canada to the Quebec convention of 1918, dissatisfied with the alleged reactionary policy of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, held a caucus at which it was decided to concentrate their energies towards having the Trades Congress legislate in accordance with their views. Some months later a meeting of delegates was called by the British Columbia Federation of Labour to assemble immediately following the annual convention of that body, which, for the first time in its history, met outside of the province under its jurisdiction, in Calgary. The conference assembled on Mar. 13, 1919, with 239 delegates present; the outcome of the meeting was the formation of an industrial organization, the "One Big Union". On June 11, 1919, a conference of the new body was held in Calgary to further the plans of the organization, which had a membership of 41,150 at the close of 1919. From the outset the O.B.U. met with much opposition from the old-established labour unions, represented by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, which was opposed to the substitution of industrial unionism for the existing system of craft unions. According to information supplied by the general secretary, the O.B.U., at the close of 1931, had 46 units under charter, one of which was located in the United States, as well as two central labour councils (bodies similar to trades and labour councils), the combined reported membership being 24,260.